

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 TRSE-00 COME-00 SS-15 AGR-10

SSO-00 AID-05 /048 R

DRAFTED BY EB/CBA/OSB:EKLAWSON:CEK

APPROVED BY EB/CBA:JWBILLER

TREAS:TWAHL

COMM:PHALE

E:RPOATS

NEA/IRN:BMORTON

NEA/BLC:MDRAPER

EB/CBA/OSB:ADBRAMANTE

AGRIC:HSTEELE

S/S-O: P. SHANKLE

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P 310037Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 126900

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: USIRJC, EIND, OTRA, US, IR

SUBJECT: PROPOSED VISIT OF JOINT COMMISSION TEAM TO TEHRAN

REF: TEHRAN 4558

1. A VISIT TO TEHRAN LAST WEEK IN JUNE IS BEING PLANNED BY
USG OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN JOINT COMMISSION AFFAIRS. THE
PURPOSE OF VISIT IS TO EXPLORE WITH APPROPRIATE GOI
OFFICIALS IRANIAN PLANS FOR IMPLEMENTING FIVE-FOLD
INCREASE IN FERTILIZER PRODUCTION AS DESCRIBED IN REVISED
FIVE-YEAR PLAN.

2. FROM CONVERSATIONS HELD WITH GOI OFFICIALS (INCLUDING
MUSTOFI - NPC) IN IRAN RECENTLY, WE HAVE IMPRESSION THAT
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GOI IS VERY INTERESTED IN U.S. PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION

IN EXPANDING GOI FERTILIZER PRODUCTION. HOWEVER, GOI IS LESS INTERESTED IN TURN-KEY PLANT CONSTRUCTION, THAN JOINT VENTURE ARRANGEMENTS WITH POSSIBLE BUY-BACK REQUIREMENT.

3. DEPARTMENT HAS DISCUSSED WITH LARGEST U.S. FERTILIZER COMPANIES POSSIBLE INTEREST IN OBTAINING DETAILED INFORMATION ON GOI EXPANSION PLANS. WHILE SOME U.S. FIRMS ARE CONCERNED AT GOI INSISTENCE OF BUY-BACK PROVISIONS

IN JOINT-VENTURE PROJECTS, ALL U.S. FIRMS CONTACTED ARE EXTREMELY INTERESTED IN OBTAINING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THAT U.S. TEAM MIGHT DEVELOP IN THIS FIELD.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE APPROACH IRANIANS TO DETERMINE IF (1) GOI REMAINS INTERESTED IN ATTRACTING U.S. PARTICIPATION IN IRANIAN FERTILIZER EXPANSION PROGRAM,

AND (2) IRANIAN OFFICIALS WILLING TO ACCEPT PROPOSED TEAM TO DISCUSS EXPANSION PLANS.

5. U.S. INTERAGENCY TEAM COULD CONSIST OF EUGENE LAWSON, STATE; DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE OFFICIAL; DR. WILLIAM WHITE, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, THE FERTILIZER INSTITUTE; AND POSSIBLY TVA REPRESENTATIVE. IN ADDITION, A DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE REPRESENTATIVE, DR. HOWARD STEELE, WILL PROBABLY PARTICIPATE IN MEETINGS.

6. DEPARTMENT WELL AWARE OF INCREASINGLY HEAVY ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN ON EMBASSY. TEAM, THEREFORE, WILL MAKE ALL LODGING AND TRANSPORTATION ARRANGEMENTS THEM-

SELVES. TEAM COULD ARRIVE JUNE 25; NO ESCORT IS REQUESTED. JUNE 26, TEAM WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH

APPROPRIATE EMBASSY OFFICERS. TEAM WOULD BEGIN WORK WEEK JUNE 28 TO CORRESPOND WITH GOI WORK WEEK. REQUEST EMBASSY ARRANGE APPOINTMENTS DURING WEEK OF JUNE 28 WITH APPROPRIATE GOI OFFICIALS. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE126900
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EKLawson:CEK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750190-0851
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975051/aaaaaasp.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 TEHRAN 4558
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 DEC 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 DEC 2003 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <26 JAN 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROPOSED VISIT OF JOINT COMMISSION TEAM TO TEHRAN
TAGS: OTRA, US, IR, USIRJC
To: TEHRAN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006